

Appl. No. 09/466,996  
Amdt. Dated July 1, 2004  
Reply to Office action of April 1, 2004

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 16-18, 20, 27, 33-34, 37, 41 and 44 were allowed while claims 9-11 and 38 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have placed claims 9 and 38 into independent form, where these claims have not been narrowed. Claim 8 has been amended to now depend on claim 9 and claim 21 has been amended to now depend on allowed claim 20. As a result, claim 8-11, 16-18, 20-23, 27, 33-34, 37-38, 41 and 44 are in condition for allowance.

Herein, claims 1-7, 12-15, 19, 24-26, 28-32, 35-36, 39-40 and 42-43 have been cancelled without prejudice. Hence, the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) are moot. Withdrawal of these §102(e) and §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

### *Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 1, 2004

By

  
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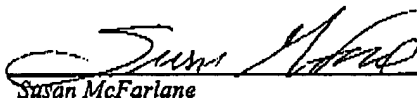
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Susan McFarlane  
Date July 1, 2004